

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 14525 171423Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----180045Z 040028 /20
R 171459Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2895
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T PARIS 14525

EXDIS

NOFORN

DEPT PASS TO CIA ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 AND XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR, PINT
SUBJ: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE ON JUNE 20

REF: PARIS 10358

1. FOR SS AND MOSCOW: BECAUSE OF DIRECT VULNERABILITY OF SOURCE REQUEST SPECIALLY CAREFUL HANDLING THIS MESSAGE.
2. SOVIET EMBASSY COLLEAGUE, WHO ASKS TO BE CAREFULLY PROTECTED, CONFIRMS THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR TWO-DAY OFFICIAL BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE BEGINNING JUNE 20. SITE OF VISIT IS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION. AS IN CASE OF HIS LAST VISIT IN 1974, SOVIETS HAVE EXCLUDED IDEA THAT BREZHNEV RESIDE AT ELYSEE GUEST HOUSE FOR SECURITY REASONS. ISSUE NOW REMAINS OPEN BETWEEN RAMBOUILLET AND VERSAILLES, WHERE BREZHNEV WOULD STAY AT TRIANON. SOURCE ADMITTED THAT BREZHNEV'S HEALTH IS FACTOR COMPLICATING PLANNING AND VOLUNTEERED, WITHOUT
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14525 171423Z

ELABORATING FURTHER, THAT BREZHNEV WILL "PROBABLY NOT BE WITH US FOR VERY MUCH LONGER."

3. AMONG ISSUES WHICH CONTINUE TO PLAGUE SOVIETS CONCERNED WITH VISIT IS UNCERTAINTY WHETHER MARCHAIS WILL OFFER TO MEET WITH BREZHNEV. SOVIETS NOW SAY THAT THEY DOUBT IT, BUT EXPRESS CERTAIN SATISFACTION OVER FACT

THAT MARCHAIS HAS "NOTICEABLY" TONED DOWN HIS ATTACKS ON THE USSR IN RECENT MONTHS AND CONTINUE TO RELATE THIS TO BREZHNEV'S POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT TO PRESENT TIME FRAME TO HELP PCF WITH MUNICIPALS (REFTEL). MARCHAIS' RESTRAINED BEHAVIOR AT RECENT PC SUMMIT AT MADRID ON QUESTION OF CRITISIZING USSR HAS ALSO, WE ARE TOLD, BEEN NOTED AND APPRECIATED. NEVERTHELESS, SOVIET-PCF RELATIONS REMAIN STRAINED AND SKEPTICISM PERSISTS WHETHER BREZHNEV VISIT WILL RESULT IN ANY IMPROVEMENT.

4. SECOND TROUBLING QUESTIONS FOR THE USSR EMBASSY IS WHETHER TO ARRANGE SPECIAL BREZHNEV MEETING WITH MITTERRAND, APART FROM OFFICIAL RECEPTION TO WHICH HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INVITED. STAFF IS SAID TO ARGUE AGAINST, ON GROUNDS THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT MAJORITY COULD STILL WIN LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS AND THAT GISCARD WOULD RESENT SUCH MEETING. SOVIET AMBASSADOR CHERVONENKO, HOWEVER, IS SAID TO BE TORN WITH DOUBTS, ARGUING TO CONTRARY THAT DENYING MITTERRAND A TOKEN OF SPECIAL FAVOR NOW MIGHT COST SOVIETS DEARLY IF HE DOES COME TO POWER. ISSUE REPORTEDLY REMAINS UNDECIDED. COMMENT: PS'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY PONTILLON TELLS US THAT NO SPECIAL MITTERRAND-BREZHNEV MEETING IS FORESEEN--AT LEAST SO FAR. END COMMENT.

5. ON SUBSTANCE, SOVIETS SO FAR DO NOT SEEM TO EXPECT MAJOR RESULTS FROM VISIT, PARTICULARLY ON POLITICAL SIDE. MAIN THEMES CONTINUE TO BE CSCE, NON-PROLIFERA-
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PAGE 03 PARIS 14525 171423Z

TION AND DISARMAMENT. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, THINGS ARE GOING WELL AND SERIES OF NEW PROJECTS MAY BE CONSIDERED. AMONG QUESTIONS WHICH MAY BE RAISED WITH FRENCH IS RECIPROCAL SUPERSONIC AIR SERVICE BETWEEN PARIS AND MOSCOW. SOVIET SOURCE INDICATES THAT MOSCOW HAS BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF CONCORDE'S CURRENT EFFORTS TO LAND IN NEW YORK, SINCE RUSSIANS TOO HOPE ONE DAY TO FOLLOW SUIT.
GAMMON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, HEALTH, MEETING AGENDA, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS14525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC IS X1 ALSO
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770175-0904
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770548/aaaabpsu.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ee773d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, NOFORN
Reference: 77 PARIS 10358
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2486731
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV VISIT TO FRANCE ON JUNE 20
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, UR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ee773d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009